

Powick Church of England Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed: September 2022

Review Date: Autumn 2026

Powick CE Primary School

'Embracing Learning Together'

At Powick CE Primary School we are a caring Christian community where everyone is welcome and, following the example set by Jesus, we thread kindness and compassion through everything we do. Through working together, we desire for everyone in our community to flourish by developing their God given talents.



Legal Framework

There must be a daily act of Collective Worship in all maintained schools for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at any time in the school day and in any groupings. Collective Worship in a Church of England school must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. In other words, the law on Collective Worship that applies in a community school, “that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”, is not relevant. Worship at Powick CE Primary School should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions.

School Statement on Collective Worship

At Powick CE Primary School worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring the school’s vision - ‘Embracing Learning Together’. Collective Worship is carefully planned and of high quality so that the whole school community joins together to explore stories from the Bible and reflect on the teachings of Jesus.

At Powick CE Primary School we recognise that our families have many different backgrounds and Collective Worship is planned to ensure that all of families are able to come together as a community as well as witness worship and participate as they choose.

Through Collective Worship, pupils will be offered a space and a place for learning about Christian stories as well as those of other faiths and are invited to participate in or observe prayer, readings and reflection on the Bible.

Through gaining a deep understanding of our six core Christian values, pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to develop into active members of our school community.

Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian calendar and those of other faiths.

Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.

Collective Worship in our school is invitational, inspirational and inclusive.

Aims and Guiding Principles

Collective Worship is pivotal to the life of the school and as such. It encompasses all that we do and supports the outworking of our school vision. Therefore, at its heart, Collective Worship at Powick CE Primary School strives to follow the following principles:

- **It is invitational**
Acts of Collective Worship will:
 - nurture and maintain the dignity of the image of God in everyone through working

- for social justice;
 - encourage pupils to consider the needs of others through charitable service and courageous advocacy;
 - nurture reflection, stillness, meditation and prayer;
 - provide pupils with (age appropriate) opportunities to explore the spiritual dimension of their lives through music, images and words;
 - provide a sense of occasion that is separate from the rest of the school day;
 - foster an appreciation of the natural world and our shared responsibilities for maintaining it;
 - identify opportunities for Christian celebration which can be associated with other school events;
 - develop clear partnerships between worship in the school and the wider community.
- **It is inclusive**

Our understanding of Christianity is that it is an inclusive faith which mirrors the attitude of Jesus Christ in the Gospels. Thus, we welcome children and staff of all faiths to our worship. Through their Christian character our acts of Collective Worship will:

 - recognise and celebrate the diversity of cultures, lifestyles and faiths which exist in our school and local community;
 - have an atmosphere in which everyone feels valued and safe;
 - be appropriate for every student to attend;
 - use language that is accessible and does not assume a particular faith of the listener;
 - account for the different spiritual journeys that children and adults are on;
 - focus on issues and experiences which are relevant to the pupils;
 - give space to consent and dissent, to sit back and consider;
 - foster active roles of pupils, parents and members of the local community – in preparation, participation and leadership;
 - provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.
- **It is inspiring**

Our acts of collective worship provide wider opportunities to:

 - promote wide ownership of our Christian vision;
 - assist learners to have increased awareness and to reflect upon fundamental issues about life;
 - allow children and adults to ask big questions about life and beyond;
 - become courageous advocates in the world in which they live;
 - motivate children into action, thinking different and reflecting on their behaviour, action and wider community;
 - develop learners' understanding of the Christian faith and Church (Anglican) practice through appropriate Biblical and liturgical content
 - encounter and explore Jesus's teachings and the trinitarian nature of Christian faith;
 - provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and / or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity;
 - include appropriate references to and elements of other faiths and secular worldviews;

- include opportunities to celebrate the academic, social, personal and wider achievements of pupils.
- **Therefore, we will ensure that:**
 - a range of people are involved in leading worship, including learners;
 - opportunities are offered to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community. Pupils will be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship;
 - the timetabling of acts of worship includes the use of the local church and various groupings of pupils;
 - worship is planned in relation to our distinctive Christian vision and associate values;
 - worship is regularly evaluated by a range of members of the school community;
 - materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to ensure that children have clear understanding of how the teachings of Jesus impact what we do locally, nationally and globally
 - opportunities for worship / prayer are offered throughout the day.

Organisation

We provide a daily act of school collective worship for all pupils:

Day	Type	Material
Monday	Whole school	HT Worship – School Values, SCARF and Roots and Fruits
Tuesday	Class	Reflection
Wednesday	Whole school	HT Worship The Vision/Bible stories linked to the Vision
Thursday	Whole School Singing	Songs of Praise
Friday	Whole school, with parents	Celebration Assembly

Collective worship takes place in the hall (class rooms on Wednesdays and Thursdays), although the venue can be flexible if required. The Headteacher leads worship regularly in the hall and teachers lead class based worships. ‘Open the Book’ provide both live and online worships and pupils participate in ‘Open the Book’ videos which are shared between schools. Pupil Led worship is planned by one class each half term and other opportunities for pupil led worship are regularly developed. Children in Reception class do not attend whole school worship in their first term but have an age appropriate Class Worship on similar themes.

Planning

- A termly overview for worship is planned each term in conjunction with SLT, Collective Worship Leader, staff and the local church leaders.
- Planning is developed from a range of resources including Roots and Fruits, SCARF, I-Sing Pop resources and Bible stories.
- Collective Worship is planned using the church calendar and the calendars of other faiths.
- A clear liturgy is followed for each act of Collective Worship,
- For each act of Collective Worship, a song and prayer and are carefully planned to link with the theme of worship.
- A time of reflection is planned as part of the worship.

- **Monitoring and Evaluation**

- Collective Worship is monitored by the Senior Leadership Team, Collective Worship Lead, Governors and Pupil Parliament to ensure that Collective Worship remains invitational, inclusive and inspiring.
- All monitoring for Collective Worship is completed on a monitoring form which is kept by the Collective Worship Lead and the Headteacher.
- Annually, Pupil Parliament lead a whole school evaluation of Collective Worship to gather pupil’s views and implement improvements.

The Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from Collective Worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

At Powick CE Primary School, there are significant numbers of children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non-religious world view.

On occasion, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the Headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. It may be helpful to establish:

- the elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part;
- the practical implications of withdrawal;
- whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much.

Where parents have withdrawn their children from Collective Worship and request religious worship according to their faith or denomination, the governors and Headteacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school;
- that the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts.

If the parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply (*this means that a parent may, for example, request their child does not take part in a carol service when otherwise the child takes part in daily Collective Worship*).

Schedule of Review

Author	Martha Worthington/Andrea Bill
Date	Autumn 2022
Date ratified	Autumn 2022
Review date	Autumn 2026

Reviewed by	
Date reviewed and re-ratified	
Next Review date	
Date reviewed and re-ratified	
Review date	